

## Professor Anatol Świącicki



We have learnt with great sorrow and grief about the sudden passing of Professor Anatol Świącicki, a great physician from Ukraine. Professor Anatol Świącicki (in Ukrainian: Анатолій Станіславович Свінцицький, in English: Anatoliy Svintsitsky, in Russian: Анатолий Станиславович Свинцицкий) was born on May 2, 1948 in Zhytomyr (Ukraine) as a son of a Pole, Stanisław Świącicki. In 1975, he graduated with honours of the Kiev Medical Institute (now: the Bogomolets National Medical University). In 1981, he obtained a PhD upon presentation of the thesis entitled: Functional state of the heart muscle in the process of management of infection-induced bronchial asthma. He was a disciple of Professor Anatoliy Petrovitch Peleshchuk (1913–2010). His associate professor thesis was presented in 1991 and summarized his research on gastrointestinal manifestations of rheumatic disorders. He was a head of the Second Department of Internal Medicine in Kiev (2008–2017), and the Third Department of Internal Medicine (2017–2020) of the Bogomolets National Medical University. For two years, he was the dean for postgraduate education, and later held the post of Deputy Rector for Science and Education of the University (2008–2013). He received the title of professor in 1995. Professor Anatol Świącicki passed away on January 29, 2020 in Kiev (Ukraine).

Research activity of Professor Świącicki was voluminous. He authored more than 800 papers, including several handbooks and chapters to medical handbooks. His research addressed gastrointestinal involvements in patients with rheumatic diseases. He was a pioneer in Ukraine of investigations of gastric toxicity of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, and he studied the role of irradiation damage to the gastric and musculo-skeletal system. Early investigations of Professor Świącicki focused on cardiology, especially functional changes of the cardiac muscle in patients with allergic or infectious disorders of the respiratory system. He was the supervisor of twenty-two PhD theses and two theses for the title of associate professor.

Professor Świącicki was given a number of important posts in the health system of Ukraine. He was a national medical consultant (2003–2006) and contributed to the preparation of several legislative documents referring to the health organisation of Ukraine. He was a member of a few committees and scientific councils, including the Council of the Strazhesko Institute of Cardiology. He contributed to the national and international programs of medical protection of victims of the Chernobyl Disaster. He was honoured by election to a number of societies and scientific institutions. Professor Świącicki was a member of the Polish Academy of Medicine (1998), the Albert Schweitzer World Academy of Medicine (2001), the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences (2007), and the International College of Cardiologists (2010). He received several awards, including Outstanding Teacher of Ukraine (1998), Honorary Diploma of the City of Kiev (2004, 2007, and 2009), the Stazhesko Medal (2001), the Biegański medal of the Częstochowa Medical Chamber (2011), Medal Gloria Medicine of the Polish Medical Society (2013), and others. He was a member of the editorial board of several journals, including: *The Ukrainian Journal of Rheumatology* (editor-in-chief), *Practicing Physician* (Ukrainian: Практикуючий лікар, editor-in-chief), *Medycyna Praktyczna* (Poland, member of the board), *Lvov Medical Journal* (Ukrainian: Львівський клінічний вісник, member of the board), and *Medycyna Wieku Rozwojowego* (Poland, member of the board). He was a member of our journal *Reumatologia* and cooperated with the National Institute of Geriatrics, Rheumatology and Rehabilitation in Warsaw as well as with the journal.

It is important to mention Professor Świącicki's active participation in Polish-Ukrainian cooperation. He was a president of the Polish Medical Association in Ukraine, and one of the founders of the Adam Mickiewicz Polish Cultural and Education Society in Ukraine (1993). Professor Świącicki was an editor-in-chief of the Ukrainian version of the first handbook of internal medicine based on evidence-based medicine: "Szczekliki Internal Medicine" (Інтерна Щекліка). He also edited the short version of this handbook (2018/2019). In 2015, the President of the Republic of Poland awarded Professor Świącicki with the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland for his contribution to activity of physicians of Polish background in Ukraine and development of mutual relations between the countries.

Professor Anatol Świącicki was a truly great eclectic physician, a great teacher, and, all above, a great human being. In the passing of Professor Świącicki Ukrainian, Polish, and world medicine lost an outstanding man.

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